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MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

26 October 1956

Present

Members: Stanley Wilcox, State  
Richard Bauer, Army  
William Shearer, Navy  
Maj. Howard G. Neumann, Air Force

[REDACTED]

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Consultants:

[REDACTED]

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1. The 78th meeting of the Exploitation Subcommittee convened at 1400 hours. The minutes of the 77th meeting were approved with the following emendations requested by [REDACTED] CIA: 25X1A

25X1A Page 2, fourth paragraph, delete "and analyses;" substitute "geographic" for "current." [REDACTED] commenting on State Department's recommendations in the second paragraph, stated that it was not the CIA's view that FDD should devote effort to "analyses" or "opinions." This, he felt, would constitute a misuse of FDD manpower. 25X1A [REDACTED] felt however, that the FDD officers should underscore pointedly significant matter in summary comment form when such determination is based on accumulated observations of the documentary sources they were exploiting. Such comments are now being made and are useful.

2. Review of the Eastern Europe Program;

Mr. Wilcox of State Department reported that comments from DRS analysts showed satisfaction with the trend in FDD reporting on Eastern Europe. In general, the FDD product was considered greatly improved and far more useful to State in the form in which it is now developing. He reiterated the State Department view that FDD reports are most useful when they provide basic information contributing to NIS support, rather than information of current interest which is no longer current nor interesting by the time the analyst receives it.

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Mr. Wilcox noted a tendency toward excessive attribution to source in some FDD reports, which made painful reading. He suggested that a source reference at the beginning and end of a summary might be quite sufficient.

With regard to source materials, Mr. Wilcox expressed the State Department opinion that emigre publications are at the worst unreliable, and at the best, confusing. He recommended no FDD effort on these publications.

The DRS analysts, finally, would much prefer to see FDD reports on Eastern Europe, the military and economic, as well as the political and sociological, issued separately on a country basis.

Mr. Wilcox, in conclusion, remarked that biographic analysts of State Department appreciated FDD's exploitation of sources not usually covered by other press summaries.

Mr. Bauer reported that Army analysts were generally satisfied with developments in the Eastern Europe program. Referring specifically to the monthly military report, he recommended eliminating the section concerned with the non-military use of military personnel, and incorporating any O/B, personality, or other factual data into other sections of the report, as appropriate. He supported State Department in recommending no coverage of emigre publications. Mr. Bauer suggested that it would be helpful if the weekly economic reports contained a listing of the sources regularly covered. \*

Referring to collations of information on public health in the quarterly political and sociological report, he recommended that similar techniques be employed in the presentation of military information where applicable.

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██████████ said he was aware that FDD's economic reporting on Eastern Europe was currently undergoing some revision as a result of changing requirements. At this point he could only note that the results of desk to desk liaison had been very gratifying, and recommended that the subjects normally dealt with in the General Economic section of the weekly economic report receive greater emphasis.

He stated that ORR analysts had conducted a review of FDD Summary 1046, indicating specifically the usefulness of each item in order to assist FDD researchers in their selection of economic information for exploitation.

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Maj. Neumann said the Air Force is as well satisfied with the FDD Eastern Europe program as with the USSR program. He suggested that East European publications might possibly provide information on the Soviet strategic air force and guided missile program which USSR publications would not contain, and urged that Satellite publications be exploited with this possibility in mind. In addition, information pertinent to escape and evasion should be emphasized.

The FDD contribution to Air Force has been most significant, Maj. Neumann concluded, in its support of A-2 crash projects involving rare languages and highly classified materials.

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██████████ reported generally favorable comment on the Eastern Europe program from Navy analysts. The monthly military report is found useful in both a political and military sense; the economic report is considered satisfactory by the maritime and geographic sections.

FDD reporting on East-West and intra-orbit trade and shipping has been found useful in determining seaborne trade patterns, Mr. Shearer said, but the summaries concerning International Communism and travel have little use.

Concerning the desirability of FDD injecting analysis and opinion in its reporting ██████████ commented that, while Navy favors the summaries or highlights provided by FDD at the head of a report, the traditional skepticism prevails among Navy analysts regarding the competence of FDD personnel to do analysis. He felt that a closer relationship between Navy and FDD personnel might result in a greater appreciation of FDD competence, and that a more descriptive label than translator or document exploiter should be found for the FDD linguist.

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██████████ stated that NSA is well pleased with the Eastern Europe program, in particular with the monthly military report. NSA also finds the reporting on international conferences and fairs useful. Of least value is the report on International Communism. A listing of sources regularly covered would be useful to NSA as well, ██████████ said.

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Mr. Wilcox's proposal that FDD reports on Eastern Europe be issued separately on a country basis was discussed, with the conclusion that the political and sociological reporting could be so organized.

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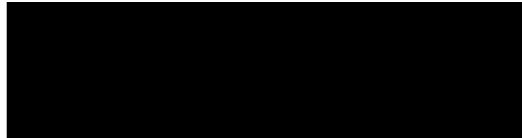
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The acting chairman stated that FDD would explore the feasibility of issuing other reports on Eastern Europe on a country-by-country basis, as well as the possibility of listing sources for the economic reports. He requested Subcommittee members to sound out their respective components concerning the value of the International Communism report, and said that the matter of excessive attribution would be worked out in liaison between FDD and consumer offices.

3. The meeting adjourned at 1530. The agenda for the meeting on November 9, 1956 will be a review of the program on the Communist Far East.

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Acting Secretary, CIA